

- 1 In the claims:
- 2 1. A user interface system, comprising:
- 3 a register configured to collect resource information from one or more resources
- 4 coupled to a communications network;
- 5 an options module configured to provide resource options based on the collected
- 6 resource information;
- 7 a user profiler configured to construct profiles for clients coupled to the network;
- 8 and
- 9 a user interface builder configured to construct user interfaces based on the user
- 10 profiles and the resource options, wherein the user interface builder may be configured to
- 11 construct a unique user interface for each of the clients coupled to the network.
- 12 2. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the unique user interface is provided
- 13 to the client.
- 14 3. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the unique user interface is retained by
- 15 the user interface system.
- 16 4. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the user interface system exists as a
- 17 node in a local area network.
- 18 5. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the user interface system exists as an
- 19 Internet web site.
- 20 6. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein one client of the clients is a local area
- 21 network, the local area network comprising a plurality of network computers, and wherein
- 22 the user interface builder is configured to provide a unique user interface for one or more of
- 23 the network computers.
- 24 7. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises a user
- 25 interface to a printer driver.
- 26 8. The user interface system of claim 7, wherein the user interface comprises a
- 27 hierarchical menu of printer option screens, wherein one or more of the printer option
- 28 screens is provided dynamically based on user preferences, printer capabilities, and user
- 29 print option selection.
- 30 9. A method for controlling usage of resources in a computer network, comprising:

- 1 receiving a job request from a client in the network;
- 2 selecting a customized user interface, wherein the user interface is based on
- 3 preferences of the client; and
- 4 returning all or part of an application program to the client, the application program
- 5 used for controlling a resource, the application program based on the user preferences and
- 6 capabilities of the resources in the network, wherein the customized user interface provides
- 7 user access to the application program.
- 8 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the resources are printers, and wherein the
- 9 application program is a printer driver.
- 10 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface is an interface to a printer driver.
- 11 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
- 12 determining if the client is a new client; and
- 13 sending a default user interface to the new client.
- 14 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the job request is received at an Internet web site.
- 15 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the job request is received at a node in a local area
- 16 network.
- 17 15. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
- 18 sending the customized user interface to the client;
- 19 receiving a modification to the client preferences; and
- 20 sending a modified user interface to the client, wherein the modified user interface is
- 21 based on the modification to the client preferences.
- 22 16. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
- 23 recording selected client preferences; and
- 24 determining a set of usage metrics based on the recorded client preferences.
- 25 17. A method for controlling printing functions in a distributed computer network, the
- 26 network comprising a plurality of clients and one or more print devices, comprising:
- 27 receiving a print request from a client;
- 28 determining if the client is a new client;

- 1 sending a user interface to the client, wherein if the client is a new client, the user
2 interface is a default user interface, and wherein if the client is not a new client, the user
3 interface is a customized user interface;
4 receiving changes to the user interface; and
5 returning the changed user interface to the client.
- 6 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the customized user interface is based on
7 preferences of the client.
- 8 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising recording the client preferences as
9 usage metrics.
- 10 20. The method of claim 17, further comprising selecting a printer to complete the print
11 request.
- 12 21. A computer-readable program storage device, tangibly embodying a program of
13 instruction executable by a computer to perform method steps in a computer network for
14 providing an extensible use interface, the method steps, comprising:
15 receiving a job request from a client in the network;
16 selecting a customized user interface, wherein the user interface is based on
17 preferences of the client; and
18 returning all or part of an application program to the client, the application program
19 used for controlling a resource, the application program based on the user preferences and
20 capabilities of the resources in the network, wherein the customized user interface provides
21 user access to the application program.
- 22 22. The computer-readable program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method
23 steps further comprise:
24 determining if the client is a new client; and
25 sending a default user interface to the new client.
- 26 23. The computer-readable program storage device of claim 21, wherein the method
27 steps further comprise:
28 sending the customized user interface to the client;
29 receiving a modification to the client preferences; and

1 sending a modified user interface to the client, wherein the modified user interface is
2 based on the modification to the client preferences.

3 24. The computer-readable storage device of claim 21, wherein the method steps
4 further comprise:

5 recording selected client preferences; and
6 determining a set of usage metrics based on the recorded client preferences.

7 25. A user interface system, comprising:
8 means for collecting resource information from one or more resources coupled to a
9 communications network;
10 means for providing resource options based on the collected resource information;
11 means for constructing profiles for clients coupled to the network; and
12 means for constructing user interfaces based on the user profiles and the resource
13 options, wherein the means for constructing the user interfaces construct a unique user
14 interface for each of the clients coupled to the communications network.

